

May 1843

INSTRUCTIONS

FOR THE

APPOINTMENT OF REPEAL WARDENS

AND

COLLECTORS OF THE REPEAL FUND,

THEIR DUTIES, &c.

DUBLIN:

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N.B.—Each person having paid up ONE SHILLING, is entitled to be enrolled as an ASSOCIATE Repealer.

Each person having PAID ONE POUND, is entitled to be admitted a MEMBER.

Each person having COLLECTED TWENTY SHILLINGS, is entitled to be admitted a MEMBER, (*provided* he is himself a contributor of one shilling or more to the Repeal Fund.)

Each person subscribing TEN POUNDS, is entitled to be enrolled a VOLUNTEER.

Each person collecting TEN POUNDS, is entitled to be enrolled as a VOLUNTEER, (*provided* he be himself a subscriber of one shilling or more to the Repeal Fund.)

In each and all of the above cases, the individual must be moved and seconded at a Public Meeting of the Association.

REPEAL WARDENS and COLLECTORS of IRELAND!—upon you depends the success of the great constitutional struggle in progress for the restoration of our country's Legislative Independence. In your hands are placed the future destinies of Ireland. If you neglect your duties, Ireland must continue in the capacity of a wretched and ill-treated *province*. But, if you discharge those duties with zeal and active patriotism, Ireland shall again be a NATION!

It is for you, then, REPEAL WARDENS and COLLECTORS, to answer this plain, but all-important question: *Shall Ireland continue to be an ill-used PROVINCE? or, shall Ireland be again a NATION!* possessing a Parliament, freely chosen by her own people, and making laws for the protection and benefit of the EIGHT MILLIONS of her brave, moral, and industrious inhabitants?

Speak, then, REPEAL WARDENS and COLLECTORS! Will you, through apathy, suffer

your country to continue what she is,—a *neglected and pauperised province*? when it is in your power, by constitutional exertion alone, to elevate her to the position and dignity of a **HAPPY, CONTENTED, and PROSPEROUS NATION**!!

In order effectually to repeal the baneful Act of Union, there is only one thing necessary to be done, and that one thing is—to perfect the *legal and peaceable organization* of the great majority of the Irish people, and to have their names enrolled in the books of the **LOYAL NATIONAL REPEAL ASSOCIATION**.—Such was the simple but successful plan, whereby Catholic Emancipation was extorted from the grasp of a reluctant British ministry!

We have told you, that there is only *one thing* necessary to be done, in order to enable Irishmen to regain their Legislative Independence; and that one simple thing is,—to have Ireland legally and peaceably organized!

We shall now proceed to point out the mode by which this constitutional organization is to be completed; and for this purpose we shall consider, in the first place,—what are the necessary Qualifications of **REPEAL WARDENS** and **COLLECTORS**:

FIRST—And above all things—the **REPEAL WARDENS** and **COLLECTORS** should be men of good moral character.

SECONDLY—They should enjoy the respect of their clergy, let them be of what religious denomination they may.

THIRDLY—They should possess an intimate knowledge of the district to be collected by them.

FOURTHLY—They should be men determined to exert themselves strenuously in enrolling Members and Associates.

FIFTHLY—They should be persons disposed to reason calmly with such as refuse their co-operation in the Repeal cause at present—but to avoid all strife, and never to reproach those who differ from them in opinion.

SIXTHLY—They should be persons who understand the principal arguments in favour of Repeal—who are able to explain to those who may want information on the subject, the strictly legal means by which Repeal is to be gained—the advantages that should result to Ireland from the re-establishment of her Native Parliament—what has been the rapid decline of Irish trade and manufacture, and what the increase of Irish poverty and destitution, since the baneful Act of Union was forced upon this country, against the expressed will, and in opposition to the decided interests, of its inhabitants.

We shall next describe the mode in which WARDENS and COLLECTORS are to be appointed.

The FIRST mode we recommend, and indeed the wisest and best, is, to have proper and efficient persons recommended to the Association by the parochial Clergy, for the various streets, townlands, or other districts, into which their parishes are to be divided.

SECONDLY—Should the Clergy not interfere, the persons to act as Wardens should then be recommended at a public Meeting; but in either case, their names must be transmitted to the Repeal Association in Dublin, and their appointment regularly moved; for the NATIONAL REPEAL ASSOCIATION alone is competent legally to appoint the Wardens—other persons, bodies, or meetings may *recommend*, but they cannot *appoint*; the power of appointment to these offices rests with the Association alone legally—but every reliance may be had that, unless for some very strong reasons, the recommendation of the persons named will be confirmed by the Association. When each Repeal Warden is thus duly appointed, he will receive a written notification from the Association, and when he shall have completed remittances to the amount of £5, he will be presented with the handsome diploma recently designed.

DUTIES OF THE REPEAL WARDENS.

The first duty of the Repeal Wardens is, to divide the parish or place into *districts* of convenient size, and each to take upon himself the care of one district.

The second duty of each Repeal Warden is, to appoint as many *Collectors* as he may deem necessary, to act with him, and to collect the Repeal Fund regularly within his district, from each individual willing to contribute a farthing a-week, a penny a-month, or a shilling a-year—taking care to make every person favourable to the Repeal understand, that unless he contributes to the amount of a shilling a-year, his name cannot be enrolled as a Repealer, and therefore he will be calculated upon by the enemies of Ireland as against the Repeal !

The third duty of each active Repeal Warden is to supply the place, so far as he possibly can, of any Repeal Warden who shall through illness, or other cause, *neglect* having his district collected, and to complete the collection in such neglected district, as though it were his own, reporting such neglect to the Association.

The fourth duty of the Repeal Wardens of each parish or district will be, to select the most efficient amongst them as an **INSPECTOR**. In every case where one or all of the Parochial Clergy can be prevailed on to act in that capacity, they should be selected without hesitation.

But should the Parochial Clergy be disinclined to act, the Wardens ought then name some zealous and intelligent person of their own body, to act as such Inspector, always taking care to transmit the names of such individuals in the first instance to the ASSOCIATION for appointment.

The fifth duty of the Repeal Wardens is, to transmit to the SECRETARY of the REPEAL ASSOCIATION in Dublin, if possible weekly, and, if not weekly, at as short periods as possible, the amount collected, and the names and residences of the Contributors, that they may be enrolled as Associates, or admitted Members, as the case may be, and their Cards duly forwarded accordingly.

The sixth duty of the Repeal Wardens is, to procure Signatures to the *various Petitions* agreed to by the Association, or by any Repeal Meeting, and to take special care that none but genuine Signatures are affixed thereto; or when persons cannot write, to obtain their authority for affixing their names; and also to transmit such Petitions either to the Secretary of the REPEAL ASSOCIATION in Dublin, or to the Member of Parliament fixed upon to present them.

The seventh duty of the Repeal Wardens is, to promote the registry of Parliamentary, Municipal, and Poor Law Electors, on the Liberal Interest, by ascertaining the names and qualifications of all such persons, not registered, who are qualified, and inducing them to take the

necessary steps to have their franchise established.

The eighth duty of the Repeal Wardens is, to promote the encouragement of Irish Manufactures in their several districts, to the exclusion of all foreign made articles.

The ninth duty of the Repeal Wardens is, to take care that there shall be transmitted from the ASSOCIATION to each locality a Weekly Newspaper for every TWO HUNDRED Associates, or a Three-day Paper for every FOUR HUNDRED, enrolled in such locality, as the case may be. The sum of TEN POUNDS collected and forwarded to the Association, entitles the Repealers of the district whence it comes, to a Weekly Paper for the entire year *gratis*; and the sum of TWENTY POUNDS entitles them to the “*Pilot*” or “*Evening Freeman*” Newspaper for the same period, if they prefer either to two Weekly Papers.

The tenth duty of the Repeal Wardens is, to have the Newspapers to which each Parish or district may be entitled, put into the hands of such persons as will give the greatest circulation to their contents; so that each Paper may be read by, and its contents communicated to, as many people as possible,

For the purpose of circulating the proceedings of the Association and other Repeal news, by access to the Newspapers, and also for the purpose of transacting general business, such as arranging accounts, paying in subscriptions, transmitting the receipts to Dublin, &c., we

would recommend that wherever there is a sufficient number of Repealers enrolled, the **WARDENS** and **COLLECTORS** should provide a convenient room to meet in; such a room can be hired for a mere trifle weekly, in any town or village; but the Wardens are in every such case to consult the Association in Dublin previously.

The office of Repeal Warden, though highly honourable and eminently useful, must be purely ministerial. They must not be, or be considered, as Representatives or Delegates. It is plain that, in point of fact, they are not so. But they must not assume or pretend to be so, nor must any of them violate the law in any respect. We are quite satisfied that nobody will be recommended for the appointment, but one who is thoroughly convinced, that whoever violates the law, strengthens the enemies of Ireland; this is an axiom of the most undoubted truth.—It ought, we repeat it, to be engraved on the mind of every Repealer, that “ **WHOEVER VIOLATES THE LAW, STRENGTHENS THE ENEMIES OF IRELAND.**”

The Repeal Wardens are not to be, nor to consider themselves to be, nor to act as *a separate or distinct body* from the Repeal Association, but are in fact local Committees of that body, and subject to its control. Neither are there to be established separate Associations or Branches, distinct from the Association in Dublin, but all are to belong to, and form part

of, the one Association in Dublin. The LOYAL NATIONAL REPEAL ASSOCIATION could not act in connexion with such separate bodies, which thus, instead of being an assistance to the cause of Repeal, would become a source of weakness by division.

The eleventh and last duty we shall point out to the Repeal Wardens, is one of the greatest possible importance. It is to use all their influence and timely exertion to have all Meetings perfectly peaceable, and on all occasions to prevent riot or disorder of any kind. Above all things they should endeavour to detect and bring to justice any wretch wicked enough to venture to administer a secret oath. He who would administer a secret oath, would likewise sell his unfortunate victim the moment after he succeeded in duping him to take it. The Repeal Wardens must also prevent the formation or continuance of any Secret Society whatsoever.

Remember that “he who commits a crime gives strength to the enemy.”

In conclusion we call firmly upon the REPEAL WARDENS to do their duty, to perform the glorious task allotted to them. The success of the Repeal Agitation depends principally, if not entirely, upon their exertions. If we can get Repeal Wardens in every parish to act energetically, and, above all, perseveringly, ***the Repeal of the Union is certain.***

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Let every REPEAL WARDEN recollect, that upon his own individual exertion may depend the greatest possible quantity of good to his native country.

The office of REPEAL WARDEN is one of the highest utility, and of the most honorable importance, but of course gratuitous.

REPEAL WARDENS, DO YOUR DUTY,
and IRELAND IS FREE !

DANIEL O'CONNELL,

Chairman of the Committee.

Corn Exchange Rooms,

May, 1843.
